

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DPW-01 OMB-01 CAB-09 COME-00

DOE-00 EB-11 FAA-00 ACDA-19 SCS-03 SCA-01 DRC-01

/174 W

----- 018090

R 050958Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9784

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

A EMBASSY SAIGON 0079

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: PGNU SPOKESMAN PRESS CONFERENCE AND PRESS ATTENTION TO
PRG RECOGNITION ISSUE, NVA PRISONERS, GIBSON CASE AND
OTHER TOPICS.

1. PGNU SPOKESMAN, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INFORMATION OUDAY
SOUVANNAVONG, MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON VARIOUS TOPICS OF
CURRENT INTEREST IN REGULAR WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 5.

2. ON PRG RECOGNITION, OUDAY SAID CABINET HAD DEBATED THIS
ISSUE AT LENGTH AND BELIEVED DECISION SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL
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SOUPHANOUVONG'S 18-POINT PROGRAM HAD BEEN APPROVED BY PGNU,

SINCE LAO FOREIGN POLICY WAS TREATED IN THAT PROGRAM.

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RESPONDING TO QUESTION ABOUT NVA PRISONERS, SPOKESMAN SAID FOREIGN INISTRY HAD RECEIVED LETTER SIGNED BY 155 PRISONERS AT VIENTIANE'S SAMKHE PRISON REQUESTING THAT PGNU COMPLY WITH POW PROVISIONS OF LATS ACCORDS AND RELEASE THEM. LETTER WAS DATED MAY 8, 1974 AND WAS TRANSMITTED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER COVERING LETTER FROM ICRC VIENTIANE REPRESENTATIVE DATED JUNE 6. OUDAY SAID SIGNERS OF LETTER CLAIM THEY BELONG TO "LAO NATIONAL PATRIOTIC FRONT." OUDAY WOULD NOT GIVE NAMES OF SIGNERS OF LETTER AND SAID PGNU HAD NOT YET DISCUSSED THEIR REQUEST.

4. LOCAL REPORTER ASKED WHETHER CASE OF DETAINED U.S. PRIVATE CITIZEN ROBERT GIBSON HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT JULY 3 CABINET MEETING. OUDAY REPLIED THAT VIENTIANE SIDE OF PGNU BELIEVED GIBSON SHOULD BE RELEASED, BUT CABINET HAD NOT YET ADDRESSED ISSUE.

5. OUDAY SAID PGNU HAD APPROVED DRAFT AVIATION AGREEMENT WITH DRV AND WAS AWAITING ARRIVAL OF NORTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION TO SIGN IT.

6. SPOKESMAN INDICATED CABINET HAD APPROVED REOPENING OF LAO EMBASSY IN RANGOON, AND OPENING OF NEW EMBASSIES IN MANILA, JAKARTA, AND KUALA LUMPUR AS SOON AS BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS PERMITTED. (COMMENT: GIVEN BUDGETARY REALITIES, IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THESE EMBASSIES ARE OPENED).

7. LOCAL PRESS JULY 5 AGAIN FOCUSED ON ISSUE OF CONTINUED NVA PRESENCE IN LAOS. VIENTIANE POST CARRIED ARTICLE REPORTING APPREHENSION IN THAILAND OF NVA LIEUTENANT FROM UNIT STATIONED NEAR TOWN OF PAK HINBOUN ON LAO SIDE OF HEKONG RIVER. DETAINEE REPORTEDLY TOLD INTERROGATORS THAT TWO NORTH VIETNAMESE BATTALIONS HAD CROSSED FROM LAOS INTO THAILAND ON JUNE 26. INFORMATION ON ARREST ALLEGEDLY CAME FROM "LOCAL SOURCES" IN KHAMMOUANE PROVINCE.

8. VIENTIANE DAILY XAT LAO REPORTED THAT MEMBERS OF TEN POLITICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSOCIATIONS CALLED ON MINISTER FOR NATIONAL ECONOMY SOTH PHETRASY (LPF) JULY 2 TO ASK HIM ABOUT PRESENCE OF NVA TROOPS IN LAOS. SOTH RESPONDED WITH STANDARD LPF POSITION THAT SINCE NORTH VIETNAM WAS NOT MENTIONED IN LAOS ACCORDS, THIS MEANT THAT THERE WERE NO NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN LAOSJM

9. XAT LAO ALSO CARRIED WHAT AMOUNTS TO UNSIGNED POLICY STATEMENT BY VIENTIANE SIDE DELINEATING ARGUMENTS ITS MEMBERS

HAD USED AT JULY 3 CABINET MEETING TO OPPOSE RECOGNITION OF PRG BY PGNU. STATEMENT POINTS OUT THAT RECOGNITION OF PRG WOULD VIOLATE "THE SOUVANNA PRINCIPLE" THAT ONLY NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS INSTALLED IN CAPITALS SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY PGNU. IT CONTINUES THAT RECOGNITION WOULD ALSO VIOLATE 1954 AND 1962 GENEVA AGREEMENTS, AS WELL AS GENERAL POSTURE OF LAO NEUTRALITY, AND WOULD FACILITATE CONTINUED USE OF LAO TERRITORY FOR AGGRESSION IN CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM, THEREBY ENDANGERING RESTORATION OF PEACE AT LAOS'. STATEMENT CONCLUDES THAT RECOGNITION WOULD RUPTURE PRESENT ANICABLE RELATIONS BETWEEN VIENTIANE AND SAIGON, AND WOULD MEAN THAT SOUPHANOUVONG'S 18-POINT POLITICAL PROGRAM WAS BEING IMPLEMENTED BEFORE IT HAD BEEN APPROVED BY PGNU.

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Message Attributes

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